POL 14 VIETS

(438)

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SECRET

EXCISE

E

Saigon 4998

45 Action

FE Info SS G SP SAH L H SAL IO P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA DOD NIC AID RSR

NNNNVV MJA630JIA430
RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 4998 2441555
ZNY SSSSS
R 011145Z AUG 66
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHLHO/CINCPAC
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T SAIGON 4998

1966 SEP 01 7 PM 5 42 42

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/6/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SEPT 01

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLL IS HUE'S 152 TO SAIGON DATED AUG 31 SIGNED CORCORAN

DE RUMJIRH 152HH 2430800
ZNY SSSSS
R 310600Z AUG 66
FM AMCONSUL HUE
TO ZEN/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 154
INFO RUMNMF/CG III MAF UNN
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T HUE 152

AUGUST 31

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III MAF PASS INFO 90 TO POLAD FRANCIS

1. AUGUST 29 HUE CITY CANDIDATE [redacted] CALLED AT CONSULATE. DURING COURSE OF MEETING [redacted] EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS:

A. AS A CANDIDATE HE IS REPRESENTING NO PARTICULAR PARTY OR RELIGION.

(1)

B. MEETING WITH OTHER TWO CANDIDATES IN CITY CONCERNING CAMPAIGN, THEY ENTREATED HIM AGAINST IDEA HAVING LARGE POLITICAL RALLY WHERE ALL CANDIDATES SPOKE AS [redacted] WISHED TO DO. OTHERS DECIDED THAT CAMPAIGNING IN CITY SHOULD BE DONE ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

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C. FEELS THAT MOST VOTERS WILL VOTE ON ELECTION DAY. OF THAT NUMBER PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 15 PERCENT WOULD DESTROY OR INVALIDATE BALLOT. COUNTS ON BUDDHISTS AND LABORERS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BOYCOTT VOTING FOR HIM. EXPECTS STRONGEST SUPPORT FROM NGUYEN DAI BANG, WHO IS A NATIVE OF HUE AND IS PLAYING HEAVILY ON THAT THEME IN CAMPAIGN.

D. PARTICULARLY WANTED TO CALL ON CONSULATE EXPRESS CLEARLY HIS ATTITUDE OF APPRECTION TO AMERICANS FOR HELPING IN VIETNAM. KNOWS WAR COULD NOT BE CONTINUED WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT.

2. AFTERNOON RETURNED TO DANANG. REPORTEDLY HAD REQUESTED AN ARMED ESCORT TO DANANG BECAUSE IN PROVINCE HAD THREATENED TO KILL HIM. AND REPORTEDLY AN ACTIVE VNQDD MEMBER, APPARENTLY WAS ONE OF PRIME FACTORS IN GENERAL THI'S REMOVAL OF AS PROVINCE CHIEF.

3. COMMENT: A. CLAIM TO NON-MEMBERSHIP IN ANY PARTY IS ALSO SUBSTANTIATED BY PROMINENT DAI VIETS; HOWEVER THEY DO CLAIM THAT HE IS A REV DAI VIET CANDIDATE. POLICE CHIEF LAP, A LEADING REV DAI VIET, HAS SPECULATED THAT WILL NOT GET BUDDHIST SUPPORT HE THINKS HE WILL BECAUSE WORD IS OUT IS DAI VIET --AND BUDDHISTS DO NOT LIKE DAI VIETS.

B. ALTHOUGH CLAIM OF THREATENED ASSASSINATION HAS NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED, IT IS POSSIBLE. SEVERAL DIFFERENT FACTORS SEEM TO BE INVOLVED. FIRST THERE IS LONG STANDING FEUD BETWEEN WHO WAS DEPUTY FOR SECURITY AND APPARENTLY USED HIS INFLUENCE WITH GENERAL THI TO GET RID OF SECONDLY PARTY RIVALRY ENTERS WITH BOTH DAI VIETS AND VNQDD TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE POSITIONS BY PLACING THEIR MEN IN TOP JOBS.

C. IS REPORTEDLY ONE OF A GROUP OF VNQDD IN PROVINCE-- OTHERS OFTEN MENTIONED ARE WHO WERE ACTIVE SUPPORTERS OF GEN. THI. FROM THIS GROUP CAME MOST OF VNQDD SUPPORTERS OF STRUGGLE. THEY ARE SUPPOSEDLY TRYING TO BUILD UP ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT GEN. THI AT SOME FUTURE DATE. THIS GROUP IS NOT PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY TO DAI VIETS WHO WERE AMONG THI'S MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICS.

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D. [redacted] HIMSELF HAS LONG BEEN CENTER OF CONTROVERSY. PROVINCE CHIEF KHOA DOES NOT LIKE HIM, POLICE CHIEF LAP DOES NOT LIKE HIM AND BOTH HAVE ASKED GENERAL HOANG XUAN LAM TO REPLACE HIM. MOST SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST [redacted] SEEMS TO BE THAT HE ACTCIVELY b-1 ed

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COLLABORATED WITH STRUGGLE, PASSING INFORMATION ABOUT ANTI-STRUGGLE PLANS UNTIL VERY END. LAP CLAIMS TO HAVE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THIS CHARGE.

E. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME BASIS FOR FACT IN THIS INTERCHANGE, IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THIS SORT OF RUMOR, ACCUSATION AND COUNTER-ACCUSATION WILL APPEAR IN INCREASING NUMBERS DURING CAMPAIGN IN BELIEF THAT ANYTHING TO DISCREDIT AN OPPONENT IS TO ONE'S OWN CREDIT.

GP-3. CORCORAN
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